

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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SUBJ: HOREV COMMISSION ISUES REPORT

1. THE HOREV COMMISSION, A 10-MAN PUBLIC BODY APPOINTED LAST MARCH BY PM RABIN AND JEWISH AGENCY CHAIRMAN ALMOGI TO INVESTIGATE ALL THE ASPECTS OF THE IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION PROCESS, HANDED ITS FINAL 80-PAGE REPORT TO RABIN AND ALMOGI ON OCT 26.

2. HOREV EXPLAINED TO THE PRESS THE SAME DAY THAT THE MAIN CAUSE OF FRUSTRATION OFR IMMIGRANTS AND AN IMPORTANT FACTOR DETERRING ALIYA WAS THE DIVISION OF THE ALIYA AND ABSORPTION PROCESS BETWEEN THE JEWISH AGENCY AND GOI MINISTRIES. PROMISES MADE BY AGENCY EMISSARIES WERE NOT NECESSARILY KEPT WHEN IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED. CHANGES WERE NEEDED TO PUT THE PROCESS UNDER ONE AUTHORITY. THEREFORE, THE COMMISSION'S MAJOR RECOMMENDATION WERE THE ABOLITION OF BOTH THE MINISTRY OF IMMIGRANT ABSORPTION AND THE JEWISH AGENCY'S DEPARTMENT OF ALIYA AND ABSORPTION. IN THEIR PLACE, THE COMMISSION SUGGESTED OTHER BODIES, HEADED BY A "SUPREME COUNCIL FOR ALIYA AND ABSORPTION", DIRECTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER. THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR LONG-AND SHORT-TERM PLANNING AND DAY-TO-DAY OPERATIONS

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WOULD BE THAT OF A NEW ALIYA AND ABSORPTION AUTHORITY, TO

BE OPERATED BY THE CHAIRMAN OF THE JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE. IN ADDITION, EACH GOVERNMENT MINISTRY WITH SOME CONNECTION WITH IMMIGRANTS WOULD HAVE A DEPUTY DIRECTOR-GENERAL IN CHARGE OF ABSORPTION MATTERS. HE REPORT ALSO RECOMMENDED A MAJOR REVISION IN THE TAX AND CUSTOMS PRIVILEGES ACCORDED TO IMMIGRANTS AND A REFINEMENT OF HOUSING AND MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE.

3. PM RABIN TOLD THE PRESS THAT AFTER THE GOI AND EXECUTIVES OF THE JEWISH AGENCY AND WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION (WZO) STUDY THE REPORT, ITS CONTENTS WILL BE COORDINATED BETWEEN THE WZO AND THE GOVERNMENT TO DECIDE WHAT WILL BE DONE WITH THE RECOMMENDATIONS.

4. COMMENT: THE HOREV COMMISSION WAS SET UP IN RESPONSE TO THE CALL BY JEWISH LEADERS AT LAST DECEMBER'S JEWISH SOLIDARITY CONFERENCE FOR A STUDY OF THE IMMIGRATION AND ABSORPTION SYSTEM. THIS COMMISSION IS SEPARATE FROM THE COMMITTEE OF EIGHT, FORMED LAST SUMMER TO DEAL WITH THE QUESTION OF SOVIET DROPOUTS. ALTHOUGH THESE PROBLEMS ARE RECEIVING INCREASING GOI AND PUBLIC ATTENTION AT PRESENT, IT IS UNLIKELY THAT THE HOREV RECOMMENDATIONS WILL BE SPEEDILY ADOPTED. ABSORPTION MINISTER ROSEN'S PUBLIC REACTION YB THE REPORT WAS REPORTED BY THE PRESS TO BE: "THE IMMIGRANT WILL UNDOUBTEDLY SUFFER". ALTHOUGH HE DENIED THAT ABOLITION OF THE MINISTRY (RUN BY A MAPAM MINISTER) 297) \$ CAUSE COALITION PROBLEMS, WE BELIEVE THAT THIS WOULD IN FACT BE THE CASE. IN ADDITION, THE COMMISSION'S SUGGESTIONS ARE LIKELY TO BECOME BOGGED DOWN IN THE LONG-RUNNING BUREAUCRATIC CONFLICT BETWEEN THE MINISTRY OF ABSORPTION AND THE JEWISH AGENCY. TOON

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